



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2006

TO: Montana Education Association Leaders

FROM: Jody Messinger, Career, Technical, and Adult Education Administrator
Linda Peterson, Accreditation Administrator

RE: Montana High School Initiative Work Session – March 22, 2006
Follow-Up Memorandum

Greetings!

Thank you for participating on March 22, in the initial statewide conversation on improving Montana high schools. For us at the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), the day was dynamic, productive, and energizing. We were pleased with the level of commitment about the need to improve our high schools and that our high schools must change significantly to meet the challenges facing our young people. The OPI joins with Montana's education leaders to galvanize this momentum and expand the dialogue to include other educators and Montana's public.

For those of you who participated on Wednesday, you remember that the purpose of the work session was twofold: to begin this historic statewide conversation with Montana's education leaders and to seek agreement with the associations to carry the message of improving Montana's high schools to their 2006-07 conferences.

The day-long program provided us with a global perspective using video clips from a presentation by Dr. Bill Daggett made at the 2005 Model Schools Conference. The state perspective was presented by Chris Lohse, OPI, based on data specific to Montana high schools. Bruce Messenger, Superintendent of Helena Public Schools and Darlene Schottle, Superintendent of Kalispell Public Schools discussed their respective journeys toward making changes to high school education in their districts.

Next Steps for Association Leaders

- Contact your annual conference organizers to add a sectional or two to begin to develop strategies for high school reform
- Communicate with your constituency regarding the high school reform
- Participate in summer follow-up work session (date to be announced soon)

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

- Identify what you need from OPI and partners to best deliver the message of high school reform
- Continue to discuss the issues related to high schools from the perspective of your association/board/agency
- Communicate with Montana High School Initiative Network

Next Steps for OPI Team

- Broker information and resources in the following – Career Clusters, Breaking Ranks II and III, Daggett videos, other resources to be identified
- Develop and make available a common sectional description for breakout sessions at annual association conferences
- Post Montana Data PowerPoint
- Set and promote summer work session

More information will be sent to you in April about the date and location of the summer work session.

Please remember the OPI agreed to cover the cost of the substitute teacher for the March 22 meeting. The district clerk needs to send the bill directly to Jill Hamilton, OPI, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501.

Thank you once again for your willingness to engage in the important dialogue. With your involvement, we look forward to a strong collaborative effort in building the Montana High School Initiative.